## **OUR MISSION**

We coordinate and facilitate agricultural promotion and development activities. Through these activities, we support and promote the buying, selling, and development of Nebraska's agricultural products.

# Nebraska Department of Agriculture Ag Promotion and Development Division

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# FOR MORE INFORMATION Questions on coupon distribution:

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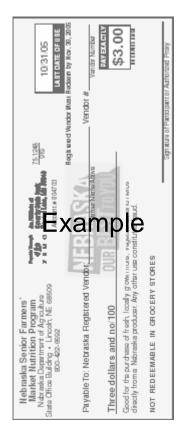
# Questions on the SFMNP program or farmers' markets:

Casey Foster
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Ag Promotion and Development Division
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Fax: 402-471-2759 E-mail: cfoster@agr.ne.gov Web site: www.agr.ne.gov This is an example of the SFMNP coupon.

Actual check design may vary.

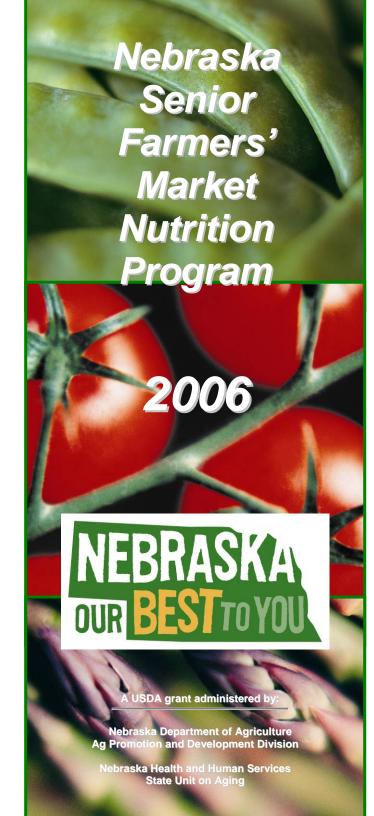




Nebraska Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program P.O. Box 94947 Lincoln, NE 68509-4947 Phone: (402) 471-4876 Toll free: 800-422-6692 Fax: (402) 471-2759

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SFMNP\_brochure\_2006.doc



#### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Thanks to a generous grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), Nebraska's low-income senior citizens can continue to enjoy locally grown, farm fresh fruits and vegetables during Nebraska's market season.

During the sixth year, Nebraska government agencies and educational institutions intend to receive funding and work together to ensure this valuable nutrition program is a success.

For FY 2006, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) received \$228,731 to continue operating the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) in Nebraska.

#### Our Partners:

- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Health and Human Services State Unit on Aging
- Nebraska Farmers' Market Association
- University of Nebraska Extension

# **COUPON USE POLICY**

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) coupons used for unauthorized purchases or unauthorized outlets will be traced back to the person misusing the coupons. Individuals who misuse coupons will not qualify for the program in the future.

State agency representatives will be visiting farmers' markets on-site to see that the program is functioning properly. We review canceled coupons to ensure that only farmers and authorized vendors are redeeming the coupons.

#### HOW SENIORS PARTICIPATE

#### Senior

Sign up for the coupon program at your local participating senior center.

- Must be 60 years or older.
- Must meet financial requirements:
  - Individual, single household \$18,130 or less
- Two-person household \$24,420 or less

Note: Income is defined as gross income before deductions.

- One set of coupons per household. Maximum of \$12 per month, per household; \$36 per household for the entire year.
- Receive coupons to redeem for fresh fruits, vegetables, or herbs at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-support agriculture operations (CSAs).
- Coupons available June through August, 2006.

Note: Because appropriations are limited, seniors are not entitled to services and may face waiting lists or no services at all in their community.

- Coupons must be redeemed no later than October 31, 2006.
- Coupons available in \$3 denominations.
- Redeem coupons in Nebraska.
- Participant may either individually apply for and accept coupons and conduct their own SFMNP transactions or they may designate a proxy to conduct such functions.
- Coupon is for face value ONLY.
   No change will be given.

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#### HOW FARMERS PARTICIPATE

#### **Farmers**

- Participate in the program by accepting SFMNP coupons at farmers' markets, roadside stands, or at the farm.
- Must be registered with the NDA.
- Deposit the coupon in your local bank account where it will be treated as a check.
- Must deposit or redeem coupons no later than November 30, 2006.
- Price produce in amounts that fit coupon amount. No cash, change, credit, or refund can be given. More produce may be given to bring purchase to coupon face value.
- Must sign the coupon upon redemption and ensure it is signed by the senior participant.

#### **ELIGIBLE FOODS**

Only fresh, unprocessed, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs can be purchased from a farmers' market, a roadside farmer's stand, directly from the farmer's operation, or from a community-supported agriculture operation.

### **INELIGIBLE FOODS**

Prohibited purchases include, but are not limited to:

- Grocery store purchases.
- Processed fruits, vegetables, or herbs. (Eligible products must be raw, uncooked, and unprocessed.)
- Baked goods
- Dried beans/peas/corn, nuts, honey, eggs, miniature pumpkins, or ornamental gourds.
- Plants or seeds.